

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL NOTES

*The Del Monte Meeting.*—Reports of the annual meeting of the California State Medical Society will appear in the June issue of the JOURNAL. Suffice it to say that the meeting was one of the best from every standpoint that has yet been held. Many matters of vital importance came up for decision and the results will be far-reaching. Weather, location, and the spirit of the times combined to lend special distinction to its deliberations. . . .

*Continuing Need for Surgeons in Medical Reserve Corps of Army.*—California with a medical population of 5,687 has given 783 to the Army. This is 13.8 per cent, whereas our real quota should have been nearer 20 per cent. Not only is this number, then, somewhat below what it should have been, but it leaves the state rather low in the list of states in regard to this matter. California and Connecticut have each 13.8 per cent of its medical population in the Army, and so are contestants for the twenty-ninth position. Nevada still ranks first with 154 medical men in the state and 37 in the Army, which is 24 per cent of its medical population. Arizona is second, Montana third, and Pennsylvania fourth in the list of percentages. . . .

There will be added to the Army this year about three-quarters of a million men. These will require about 7,500 surgeons. The Council of National Defense at the present time is asking California for at least 200 more surgeons, but looking this matter squarely in the face it would seem as if 400 or even 500 would be more appropriate. . . .

*Report of Provost Marshal General on First Draft.*—Under date of December 20, 1917, the Provost Marshal General has issued a report of the results of the first draft for the Army under the Selective Service Law. The report is compendious and will afford material for much interesting study. On June 5, 1917, there were enrolled a total of 9,586,508 men, of whom 3,082,949 were examined. Of this latter figure 1,057,363 were certified for military service. Of those so certified, 252,294 failed to appear when called for examination and according to the law were accordingly certified for service. This leaves, excluding also certain other minor classes, a total of 2,510,706 men who were actually examined by local boards. Of these, 730,756, or 29.11 per cent were rejected for physical incapacity. Of these, 22,989, or 5.8 per cent, were rejected after being sent to cantonments by the local examining boards. Of the California men, 26.17 per cent were disqualified for physical reasons.

Practically one-half of those called claimed exemption on some ground and of these 39 per cent were exempted, constituting 77.86 per cent of the total claims made for exemption. Less than 6,000 arrests were made for failure to register.

The total expense of the draft was \$5,211,965.38. The average cost per registrant was \$1.54, per man called was \$1.69, and per man accepted for service was \$4.93.

(Continued in Front Advertising Section, Page 14)

## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By F. N. SCATENA, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

### Board Proceedings

In conformity with the policy of the Board of Medical Examiners to open all bottlenecks in the licensing of doctors in the State, an oral examination was held in Los Angeles on April 8, 1943. Such oral examinations are required by law of doctors applying for reciprocity on some other State of the United States, whose certificate in said State is dated more than ten years previous to the filing date in California.

The Board of Medical Examiners also went on record at its recent meeting in Los Angeles that it would give additional written examinations to candidates for licensure, whenever a sufficient number of such applications are on file, this also in an endeavor to aid in every possible way in the war effort.

### News

"License of Dr. Thomas D. Wyatt to practice medicine has been restored by a writ of mandate issued by Superior Judge Edward Murphy in San Francisco, it was revealed here yesterday. The doctor, who has twice lost his license for allegedly performing illegal operations, brought action against the State Board of Medical Examiners, claiming they had exceeded their jurisdiction in revoking his license the second time. . . ." (Press dispatch from Redding, in *Sacramento Union*, March 24, 1943.)

"Warning all boards to scrutinize closely all applications for additional food rations made on a doctor's prescription, Paul Barksdale d'Orr, OPA ration chief for the Southland today listed the three types of doctors who are allowed to 'prescribe' under OPA regulations. The trio include a doctor of medicine, signing and entitled to sign M.D.; an osteopathic physician and surgeon, signing and entitled to sign physician and surgeon, D.O., or a doctor of dental surgery, signing or entitled to sign D.D.S. . . ." (*Alhambra Post-Advocate*, March 18, 1943.)

"The requirement that licensed state osteopaths have at least 30 hours of 'professional educational experience' every year should be abandoned, the assembly governmental efficiency and economy committee ruled. The bill, eliminating the annual 'refresher training' provision, was authored by Assemblyman Everett Burkhalter, Burbank, and given 'do pass' approval. It was opposed by the California Osteopathic Association. . . ." (*Sacramento Union*, March 18, 1943.)

"Approval of a plan advanced by the city council for employment of physicians to give physical examinations to prisoners when they are booked, and when they are discharged from city jails, has been voted by the police commission. . . . The suggestion was submitted by the council to the commission as the result of consideration

(Continued in Back Advertising Section, Page 30)

† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6. News Items are submitted by the Secretary of the Board.